

We claim:

1 ~~Sub A~~ 1. A method for forwarding packets to a network, comprising the steps of:  
2 attempting to forward a packet stored in memory to the network;  
3 establishing a time limit within which to forward the packet stored in the memory  
4 to the network;  
5 monitoring an elapsed period of time while attempting to forward the packet  
6 stored in the memory to the network; and  
7 determining whether to cancel attempts to forward the packet stored in the  
8 memory to the network when the elapsed period of time exceeds the time limit.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of canceling attempts to  
2 forward the packet stored in the memory when that packet is not currently being  
3 transmitted over the network.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of allowing  
2 transmission of the packet stored in the memory to complete when that packet is currently  
3 being transmitted over the network

1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of interrupting  
2 transmission of the packet stored in the memory when that packet is currently being  
3 transmitted over the network.

1 *Sub B9* 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of replacing the packet  
2 stored in the memory with a new packet having the same data as the replaced packet  
3 when it is determined to cancel the forwarding of the stored packet.

1        <sup>7</sup>  
      ~~8.~~        The method of claim <sup>5</sup>~~7~~ wherein the packet stored in memory includes

2        time-sensitive data and protocol-related data, and the new packet has the same time-

3        sensitive data and different protocol-related data as the replaced packet.

1        <sup>9</sup>  
~~10.~~    The method of claim <sup>7</sup>~~8~~ further comprising the steps of:

2        initiating attempts to transmit the new packet to the network; and

3        resetting the elapsed period of time.

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[illegible]

Add B3 >